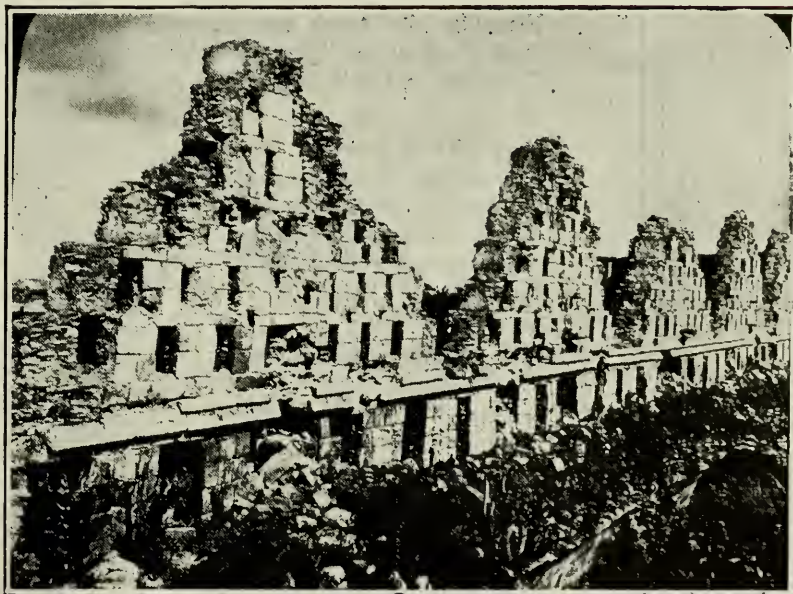


Cumora's Southern Messenger



RUINS OF ANCIENT AMERICA.

Who built such huge structures in antiquity?

(See pages 148 and 154.)

OCTOBER,

1937

Volume 11

Number 10

An Angel from on High

AN angel from on high,
The long, long silence broke;
Descending from the sky,
These gracious words he spoke:
Lo, in Cumorah's lonely hill
A sacred record lies concealed.

Sealed by Moroni's hand,
It has for ages lain,
To wait the Lord's command,
From dust to speak again.
It shall again to light come forth,
To usher in Christ's reign on earth.

It speaks of Joseph's seed,
And makes the remnant known
Of nations long since dead,
Who once had dwelt alone.
The fullness of the Gospel, too,
Its pages will reveal to view.

The time is now fulfilled,
The long expected day;
Let earth obedience yield,
And darkness flee away;
Remove the seals, be wide unfurled
Its light and glory to the world.

Lo, Israel filled with joy,
Shall now be gathered home,
Their wealth and means employ
To build Jerusalem.
While Zion shall arise and shine,
And fill the earth with truth divine.

PARLEY P. PRATT.

Cumorah's Southern & Messenger

VOL. 11.

20th OCTOBER, 1937.

No. 10.

Cumorah's Southern Messenger is published monthly by the South African Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Main and Grove Roads, Mowbray, C.P., South Africa. Subscription: 3/- per year.

Registered at G.P.O. as a newspaper.

"The faithful have always had a positive knowledge that what they were doing was right and acceptable to the Almighty, and that they have been sustained in passing through scenes of trial by the gift and power of God."

Wilford Woodruff.

LE GRAND P. BACKMAN,
Editor.

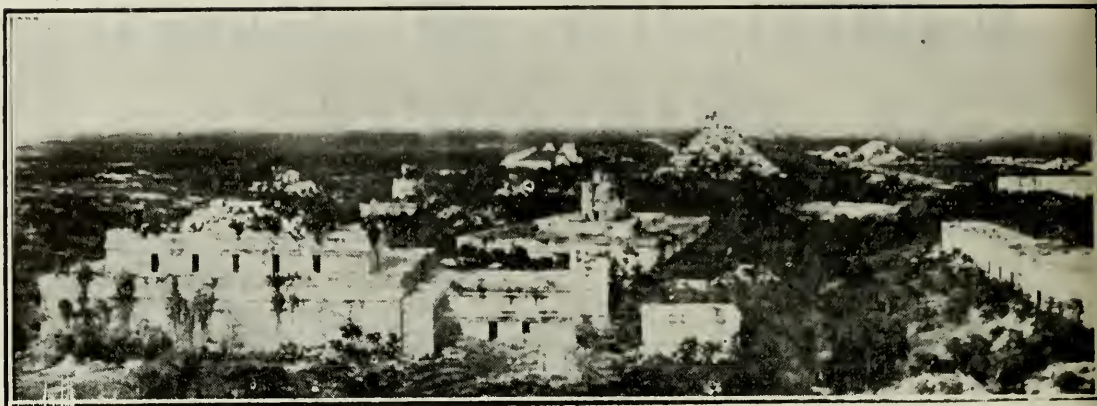
O. CLARON ALLDREDGE,
Associate-Editor.

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THE COVER.

The Ancient Americans built sky-scrappers like the modern Americans. The ruins of an ancient building is pictured on this month's cover of the *Messenger*. Eight stories can be counted and there is enough debris at the foot to make three more. Ruins such as these are strong evidence of a former civilization.



The ruins of the great city of Chichen Itza, Yucatan Peninsula.

Forgotten Empires

By Elder A. Z. Richards, Jr.

IN a library not long ago, I glanced at the list of books which were available on archaeological subjects—literature which would help me get acquainted with the countries of the world which I have not been fortunate enough as a traveller to visit. Some of the titles which I read were *Excavations in the Holy Land*, *Egyptian Ethnology*, *Ancient Cities of the East*, and *Mysteries of the Pyramids*. But it was a particular group of books on that same list which caught my eye—*The Conquest of the Maya*, *Ancient America*, *Mystery Cities*, *Travels in Yucatan*, etc. I was interested to find that a goodly number of the recent books on archaeology have been written about discoveries in Mexico and Central America.

What an interesting trip it would be if we could go to Mexico and see its wonders.

We would find no other country in the world richer in romance and history, and yet we marvel at how remote and unknown this part of the world was a few hundred years ago. In Europe, men did not even dream that there were other lands or other people until the exploration of the 15th century. Columbus believed that he had sailed to India. He found men there—red men—and he called them Indians, the name which has persisted to this day.

Then from 16th century history comes the story of the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards—a romance scarcely equalled in fiction. Cortez and his band of daring *Conquistadores* found a civilization far in advance of that encountered in other parts of the new world. But it is not the people whom Cortez found that we are most interested in. It is the ancient civilizations who left records only in remnants of cities and palaces of stone—civilizations superior to that which Cortez found—that invite our attention.

From Yucatan to Sonora, Mexico is filled with monuments in stone constituting mute evidence of the rise and fall of great nations. In the jungles of that tropical land, as well as in its temperate mountain valleys, are found remains of great cities, their temples and their pyramids. At Cholula, in southern Mexico, stands the world's largest known pyramid, measuring 1,440 feet square at the base and nearly 200 feet in height. Although it does not rise as far into the sky, this pyramid is much larger than the great pyramids of Cheops in Egypt, and would challenge modern construction.

Second in size in Mexico is the massive man-made Pyramid of the Sun at San Juan Teotihuacan, a few miles northeast of Mexico's capital. This 216 foot structure is composed of five distinct pyramidal sections or terraces which

narrow as they ascend. A broken series of well-worn steps leads from the ground to the summit which, centuries ago, was graced by a beautiful temple.

North and westward from the Pyramid of the Sun lies the smaller Pyramid of the Moon constructed entirely of earth and volcanic rock, and rising 150 feet above the ground. The outer faces of this monument, like the Pyramid of the Sun, are covered with masonry and surfaced with fine cement mortar. Cement known fifteen hundred years ago? Yes, by the inhabitants of the western world!

Paints and pigments have been found among the ruins of Mexico which cannot be duplicated to-day.

Excavations have revealed that, near many dwellings, a system of tile drains had been laid—these ancient houses were equipped with a form of plumbing. Indeed, everything which has been found goes to prove that the ancient races of Central America and Mexico possessed an advanced culture, exact ideas on certain arts and sciences, and remarkable technical knowledge.

Leaving Central Mexico and travelling eastward into the jungles of Yucatan Peninsula, a traveller can visit the more recent cities of the Maya, though they also have been deserted. Science tells us that all the cities in Yucatan have been built up since the 5th century. Before that time the Mayas had prospered in what are now the states of Tabasco and Campeche in Mexico and in Guatamala, Central America.

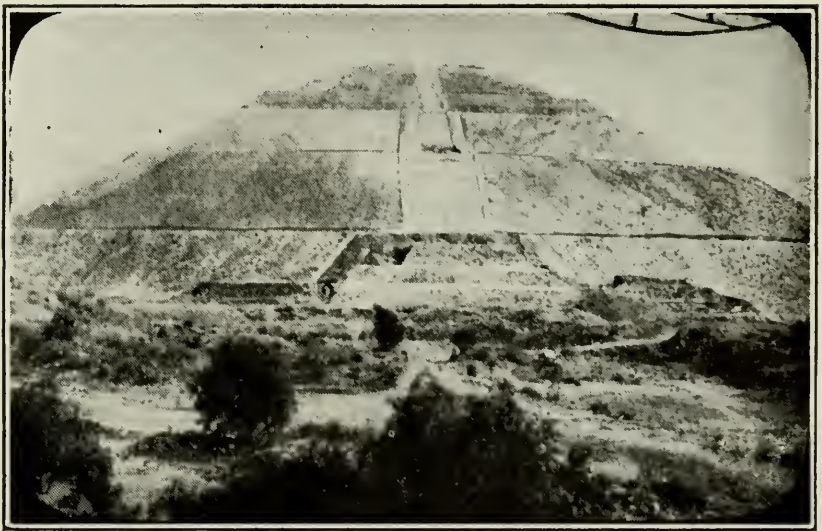
The outstanding ancient city, Chichen Itza, located in the heart of Yucatan, lay undisturbed in its overgrowth of

vegetation for several hundred years before it was discovered a few years ago by explorers. It is believed to have been founded in about 530 A.D. and to have grown to be the largest city in that section. During the year 668 archaeologist tell us, the city was abandoned for a time, but the Mayas continued to live in the surrounding country and eventually re-occupied it, only to abandon it permanently again in 1348. Reasons for these changes have not been discovered, but some believe it to have resulted from wars, from unfavourable changes in climate, or from exhaustion of the fertility of the soil to a point where it became unprofitable for production.

Visitors marvel at the beauty of the structures found at Chichen Itza, but above all they marvel at the ingenuity of the people who erected them. The most prominent work in the area is known as El Castillo, or Great Temple of Kukul Can, which rises as a pyramid more than 100 feet into the sky.

Most beautiful of the groups of buildings in this mystery city is the Temple of the Warriors, which recently became the subject of two large, beautifully illustrated volumes published by the Carnegie Institution.

(Continued on page 159.)



The Temple of the Sun, situated at San Juan Teotihuacan, 45 miles north-east of Mexico City, Mexico.

Life Abundant

By O. F. Ursenbach, President of the French Mission.

"*I* AM come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly," solemnly fell from the lips of our Lord.

What is that abundant life of which Jesus spoke? It is axiomatic that the Master meant for men to interpret life in all its majestic beauty, as He had felt and lived it during His short mortal career, and to weave from the warp and woof of experience those fundamentals that engender joy and gladness.

He who gropes through life unmindful of the hand that ever busy wheels the silent spheres, must not be disappointed if he passes from life never having tasted its true mission. Conversely, he who has learned to sense God's handiwork in every moss and cobweb, drinks of that precious nectar that flows from the well-springs of life.

As a child, my poetically gifted mother taught me how to see in the leaf, flower, insect, bird and, beast, masterpieces of divine art, and to glory in the creations of a loving God. Knowing what a power this had on my young life, I have often wondered why thousands of children are not taught, while their minds are supple and pliable, those fundamentals essential to the life of every child.

He to whom a primrose, or even a noxious weed, is not a thing of beauty, obviously has never tasted deeply of life's true mission. On the other hand, he who with the poet, who, while contemplating the mystery of metamorphosis as he held a butterfly in his hands, said: "Could I but fathom you in all your history, man's climb to Godhood would lose its mystery," has really learned life through living it.

Instill in the mind of a child, or an adult for that matter, that an ugly dog is something more than a cur, a master-

piece of divine art, and you give him a true concept of aesthetic beauty to the engendering of soul value.

He who understands the simple perspective lines that focus upon a definite vanishing point, may, in each vista that greets his eye, dissect the majesty of fleeting visions. This alone is a powerful medium for the appreciation of what God manifests in His wondrous phenomena. The individual who muses in the great outdoors and at each turn absorbs vast panoramas of the divine, senses well what makes life worth living.

He who can gaze into the starry night and, in awe and amazement, consider how system into system runs; how solar centres are but units in clusters subservient to still greater central suns, again feels those heart-throbs that engender an appreciation of the richness that is implied in the astral vision.

Many high-souls climb the highway to life abundant, while others with hearts seemingly closed to the divine impulse, eke out existences with an "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die," attitude, to take with them, when the curtain is rung down, only a few withered leaves.

There is little that comes within our experience that is more soul-building than for one to feel and sense well the dawn, the glow, fully conscious of the very purposeful meaning of it all, and to know that he is, though feeling insignificantly small in himself, a unit in the great majestic scheme of creation. To him life is real, tangible, and potential. Such an individual will need no monument to mark the place.

If, in life, we can sense, feel, and absorb the eternal muse manifest in God's wondrous handiwork, as expressed in the flora and fauna of creation; if we can

drink richly of the silent messages from the stars; if we can deeply revel in the contrasting shades from the white cloud against the ether blue, to those in the vast arena of all out-doors, culminating in the evening tints amethyst, golden, and crimson; if we can see in man, God's greatest masterpiece; if we can sense the great philosophy of life, knowing that God lives and that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the world; that man is a son of God and brother to our Lord; that Joseph Smith and his successors down to and including Heber J. Grant, are prophets, seers, and revelators; that Priesthood is inseparably connected with the powers of heaven; and that the Gospel is richly embodied in our souls,—then, assuredly, we are living that very life expressed in the words of Jesus who said: "I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly."

(Concluded from page 152.)

kind. For Christ Himself said to His disciples: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."

What comfort this should bring to the hearts of all man-kind. Whether we are in Africa, or America, in China, or in India, God is concerned with our welfare and Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations.

Truly the words of Ezekiel: "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph which is in the hand of Ephraim and the tribes of Israel his fellows and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in my hand" have been fulfilled. The Book of Mormon, the history of the House of Joseph and the Holy Bible, God's message to the House of Judah, now used as one to convince the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, and that He does and will manifest Himself unto all nations.

L.P.B.

* * * * *

CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

In conjunction with the dedication of the new chapel and recreation hall at Mowbray, *Cumorah's Southern Messenger* takes pleasure in announcing the Dedicatory Writing Contest and the Dedicatory Poetry Contest. The contests are open to all except the Travelling Missionaries.

Entrants in the Poetry Contest must submit a poem dealing with the progress of the Church as realized in the Dedication.

Entrants in the Writing Contest must submit an article of not more than 1,500 words on the same theme.

Entries must be in the *Messenger* office, "Cumorah," Main Road, Mowbray, C.P., on or before 1st December,

1937. Compositions should be written on one side of the page only and type-written if possible. The prize-winning article and poem will be published in the Dedicatory Issue of the *Messenger*. A triple combination, consisting of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price, bound in morocco leather, will be awarded to the first place winners, the pioneer novel, "The Souls Fire" will be given to the second place winners, and a year's free subscription to the *Messenger* will go to the third place winners. Further details may be obtained from any District President.

Use your talents and help to make the Dedication a grand success!

20th OCTOBER, 1937.

EDITORIAL.—ANOTHER WITNESS

We read on the fly-leaf of the Book of Mormon; the reason for its coming forth: "To shew unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, *manifesting himself unto all nations.*"

That last phrase is perhaps the meat of the message and carries to us an understanding of the great love that God has for all of his children, not only for a chosen few known as the Chosen people. The men, women and children of the Western Hemisphere were just as dear to Him as the men and women in the little town of Bethlehem, or in the great city of the temple, Jerusalem.

The fascinating story of the Book of Mormon tells us of that great nation known as the Jaredites, descendants of a group that fled to the Western Hemisphere two thousand years before Christ, of the Mulekites who were brought out of Jerusalem by their princely leader, of the followers of Lehi who became divided into the two great nations, the Nephites and the Lamanites. We read how "He raised up among them prophets and wise men to teach them the way of life." One of the Book of Mormon prophets says: "The Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue, to teach His word in wisdom all that He seeth fit that they should have. Therefore, we see that He doth counsel in wisdom, according to that which is just and true."

Recently in Pietermaritzburg, a minister of one of the leading churches in that beautiful city, gave a sermon in which he gave a very scholarly explanation of the fact that the Bible was the writings of Moses preserved by the Jewish nation, that it gave to the world the wonderful

teachings of the Master through the four Gospels, but that it centered its attention to a great extent upon the house of Judah known to the world as the Jewish nation. He then explained that Judah was only one of the twelve sons of Jacob, known as Israel, and that the blessings given by God to Abraham, "and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed," were continued down through Isaac, his son and to Jacob, his grandson, and were to be continued through that lineage. He then made this very interesting declaration: "No doubt other scriptures will be brought forth in due time that will tell of God's dealings with others of the House of Israel, such as the House of Joseph, the House of Reuben, of Benjamin, etc."

And why not? God is no respecter of persons. Joseph was the favourite son of his father and became practically the salvation of his father's house when he brought his aging father and his repentant brothers from their famine-stricken homes to his adopted land of plenty, Egypt, where he had found favour in the sight of the Pharaoh. Jacob's blessings upon Joseph reads "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall separate from his brethren." The Book of Mormon shows how this prophecy was fulfilled when the Lord led certain descendants of this same Joseph from Jerusalem to the western continent, where they became a great nation.

So in face of the cry: "A bible, a bible, we have a bible," the Latter-day Saints solemnly declare to the world that the Book of Mormon is a second witness of the divinity of Jesus Christ and that He is concerned with all man-

(Continued on page 151.)

Leaves from my Scrap Book

By ELDER O. CLARON ALLDREDGE

When men are rightly occupied, their amusement grows out of their work, as the colour petals out of a fruitful flower; when they are faithfully helpful and compassionate, all their emotions are steady, deep, perpetual and vivifying to the soul as is the natural pulse to the body.

John Ruskin.

The more a man is educated, the more it is necessary, for the welfare of the State, to instruct him how to make a proper use of his talents. Education is like a double-edged sword. It may be turned to dangerous usages if it is not properly handled.

Wu Ting-Fang.

No man lives without jostling and being jostled; in all ways he has to elbow himself through the world, giving and receiving offence.

Carlyle.

I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.

Thoreau.

Let us endeavour so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain.

The law should be loved a little because it is felt to be just; feared a little because it is severe; hated a little because it is to a certain degree out of sympathy with the prevalent temper of the day; and respected because it is felt to be a necessity.

Emile Fourget.

Without distinction, without calculation, without procrastination, love. Lavish it upon the poor, where it is very easy; especially upon the rich, who often need it most; most of all upon our equals, where it is very difficult, and for whom perhaps we each do least of all.

Henry Drummond.

Dear Lord Jesus, now to Thee
In humbleness I pray,
For Thy Spirit's loving guidance
Through the night and day.
Cleave my mind of evil thoughts
And keep my hands from sin,
Make my heart so sweet and clean
That Thou wilt enter in.

Listen to my hymn of praise,
My thanks for all Thy love
For the treasure of Thy blessings
Poured from Heaven above.
When the days with sadness dim
My strength I'll find in Thee
The sweetness of Thy mercy
My dearest comfort be.

Take my hand in Thine dear Lord
Oh let me feel Thee near,
Make me worthy of Thy glory,
Only Thee to fear.
And guide me through the marshes
Of this world of sin,
That I may reach Thy mansions,
And hear Thy sweet "Come In."

Gladys Buckley.

You may be as orthodox as the Devil, and as wicked.

John Wesley.

The victory of success is half won when one gains the habit of work.

Sarah A. Bolton.

To look fearlessly upon life; to accept the laws of nature, not with meek resignation, but as her sons, who dare to search and question; to have peace and confidence within our souls—these are the beliefs that make for happiness.

Maeterlinck.

I live on the sunny side of the street; shady folks live on the other. I have always preferred the sunshine and have tried to put other people there, if only for an hour or two at a time.

Marshall P. Wilder.

There is nothing holier in this life of ours than the first consciousness of love—the first fluttering of its silken wings—the first rising sound and breath of that wind which is so soon to sweep through the soul, to purify or destroy.

Longfellow.

Is the Bible Sufficient?

By Elder James E. Talmage.

OUR eighth Article of Faith reads: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

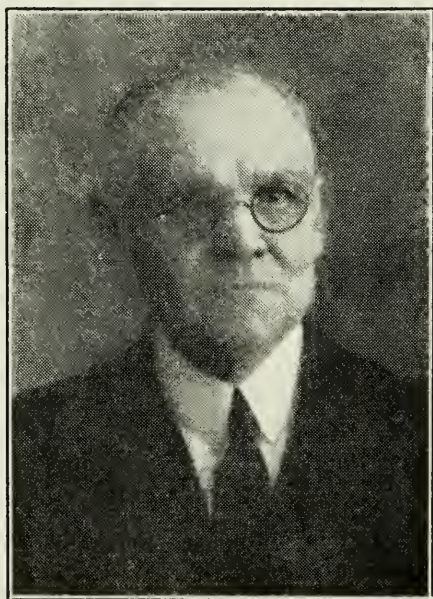
Taken as a whole the Holy Bible is a collection of sacred and historical writings, depicting, though incompletely, the Divine dealings with mankind on the Eastern Hemisphere from the creation down to about the close of the first century after Christ. The Old Testament contains a brief record of pre-Mosaic time, but is largely a history of the Semitic people, or Hebrews, as they lived

The compilation as it now stands is the work of men, and our modern translations from the original Hebrew of the Old Testament and Greek of the New have been made by skilled linguists and learned theologians.

But the wisdom of even the wisest of men may be faulty, and the understanding of the prudent may be biased and dangerously imperfect. The many revisions and successive versions of the Bible, made as the errors of earlier renditions became strikingly apparent, testify to the unreliability of scholarship in the translation of sacred writ. Moreover, it is an indisputable fact that the compilation of books constituting our present version is incomplete; for within the Bible itself more than a score of books, epistles, or other writings not included are mentioned, and generally in such a way as to show that those lost Scriptures are considered authentic and genuine. Furthermore, numerous Biblical passages are tinged with what scholars call "gloss"—that is wording intended to convey the private interpretation of the translator.

The Latter-day Saints openly proclaim their reservation as to incorrect translation. We are in harmony with all able and earnest students of the Scriptures in accepting the Bible as the Word of God, only so far as it is translated correctly.

But we hold that there are now extant other Scriptures, of equal validity with those of the Holy Bible, and in no sense in conflict therewith nor a substitute therefor. For nearly six centuries before and about four centuries after the birth of Christ, the American continent was inhabited by a detached body of Israelites, who developed into powerful nations. Their existence was unknown to the people of the East. Is it unreasonable to believe that unto the western fold God sent His shepherds, and that pro-



James E. Talmage.

under the Law of Moses. The New Testament is distinctively the Scripture of the Gospel as contrasted with the Law, and is devoted to the earthly ministry of the Saviour and to the growth of His Church under apostolic administration.

phets officiated amongst them by Divine appointment?

That the Book of Mormon would be rejected by many on the specious and untenable claim that they already had a Bible and that there could be no other Scriptures, the Lord foretold by the mouth of the prophet Nephi:

And because my words shall hiss forth—many of the Gentiles shall say; A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible.

Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man, neither from that time henceforth and forever.

Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.
—2 Nephi 29 : 3-13.

Thus is predicted the bringing forth of yet other Scriptures, not extant among known nations to-day, viz., the records of the Lost Tribes of Israel, to whom the Book of Mormon indicated the Resurrected Christ went to minister after His visitation to the Nephites. In the present or last dispensation numerous revelations have been given by Jesus Christ to His modern prophets. Many of these are before the world in the volume of latter-day Scripture known as the Doctrine and Covenants.

It is noticeable that we make no reservation respecting the Book of Mormon on the ground of incorrect translation. To do so would be to ignore attested facts as to the bringing forth of that book. Joseph Smith the prophet, seer and revelator, through whom the ancient record has been translated into our modern tongue, expressly avers that the translation was effected through the gift and power of God, and is in no sense the product of linguistic scholarship.

The Bible in its original form, and in modern versions so far as correctly translated, contains the Word of God. Without it, the world would be plunged into spiritual gloom. Nevertheless there are other Scriptures already published, and yet others are to come.

MISSION NEWS

CAPE DISTRICT.

Elder Dee R. Parkinson, District President,
"Cumorah," Main Road, Mowbray.

Elders Lincoln W. Kener, Robert R. Child,
Omer J. Smith, Jack H. Bradshaw, O. Claron
Allredge, Paul D. Backman.

Meetings held at above address, Sundays, 10.30 a.m. and 7.0 p.m.; Mutual, Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.; Relief Society and Priesthood Meeting, Thursdays, 7.45 p.m.

Under the direction of Sister Johanna Fourie, one of the most successful Primary concerts ever produced at "Cumorah" was presented 16th September. The operetta, "In My Grandmother's Old Fashioned Garden," was received by an attentive, overflowing audience.

The Annual M.I.A. Banquet was a delightful treat for all. President Le Grand P. Backman acted as toastmaster. Elder Dee R. Parkinson gave a toast to the M.I.A., and Elder O. Claron Allredge responded. The food was delicious and the programme entertaining.

The Mowbray M.I.A. was reorganized recently. Sister Nel Buchanan, who has moved to East London, was released as President of the Y.L.M.I.A. Elder O. Claron Allredge, owing to other pressing duties, was released as President of the Y.M.M.I.A. Sister E. Helm was sustained as President of the Y.L.M.I.A., and Elder Jack H. Bradshaw as President of the Y.M.M.I.A.

President Le Grand P. Backman accompanied by Elder James G. Shumway left 20th September for a tour on the East coast. They returned 7th October, very pleased with conditions. The growth of the Church in these branches of late has been most encouraging.

Brother Reaford Futter, of Springs, and Sister M. King, of Robertson, were recent "Cumorah" visitors.

The M.I.A., 5th October, staged a very successful scavenger hunt. A large crowd participated in the fun.

It is with joy that we welcome Sister Gertrude Margaret Smith into the Church. She was baptized 13th October, by Elder O. Claron Allredge and con-

firmed by President Le Grand P. Backman. May the Lord's choicest blessings attend her always.

A new Sunday School has been opened in Brooklyn. Elder Paul D. Backman is the Superintendent.

Sister Edith Wiid left 9th October for a holiday to Lourenco Marques. Enjoy yourself and hurry back.

PORT ELIZABETH DISTRICT.

Elder Harlan W. Clark, District President.
Elder Harold M. H. Lund.

Services: Forrester's Hall, Palm Street, Sunday, 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The North End Beach was the scene of a baptismal service on 23rd September. Mary Ossery Fitzpatrick was baptized by Elder Harlan W. Clark and confirmed by Elder Harold M. H. Lund. Bertha Edith Whall was baptized by Elder Harold M. H. Lund and confirmed by Elder Harlan W. Clark. May the light of the Gospel be the beacon guiding these new members over life's billowy course.

Brother C. B. Spear, of Bloemfontein, was a Port Elizabeth visitor for the week beginning 20th September. He delivered a very inspiring sermon on the 26th.

President Le Grand P. Backman and Elder James G. Shumway arrived 1st October, to hold District Conference. A fine programme was presented under the direction of Elder Harlan W. Clark. A splendid spirit prevailed.

On 4th October, the infant daughter of Mr. and Sister Reuben Anderson, Yvonne Pauline, was blessed by President Le Grand P. Backman.

EAST LONDON DISTRICT.

Elder W. Dean Taylor, District President.
Elder V. Jay Allen.

Meetings held at South African Labour Party Hall, 38, Union Street, Sundays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome into the District, Brother and Sister S. Doyle and family, and Brother and Sister P. Doyle, from Natal. Brother and Sister James Buchanan have returned to East London from the Cape.

On 30th September, President Le Grand P. Backman and Elder James G. Shumway paid us a hurried visit. We enjoyed their stay very much.

BLOEMFONTEIN-KIMBERLEY- BASUTOLAND DISTRICT.

Elder Timothy H. Irons, District President.
Elder Wilford Lee Freeman.

Our good friend, Miss Dora Coleman, left Bloemfontein, 17th September, for Port Alfred. She will make her home there. We are sorry she had to go but wish her success and happiness.

Brother C. B. Spear recently returned from a business and pleasure trip to Port Elizabeth.

On 22nd September, the Relief Society held its first social since its reorganization. It was under the direction of Sisters Sylvie Coleman, Lillian Lamberick and Grace Hedderwick. A new record for attendance in the Bloemfontein Branch was made.

Tryouts for the Branch play, "Ici On Parle Français," were held on 6th October, with the following cast being selected: Mr. Spriggins, C. B. Spear; Mrs. Spriggins, Lillian Lamberick; Angelina Spriggins, Sylvie Coleman; Victor Dubois, C. Spear; Major Rattan, W. Freeman; Mrs. Rattan, Grace Hedderwick; Anna Maria, Martha Rossouw. The play will be presented late in November.

NATAL DISTRICT.

Elder Wm. A. Sorenson, District President.
Elder Dale A. Wilcox.

Durban Branch meetings held at Perla Siedle Studio, Buchanan Building, West and Russel Streets. Sunday School 10.30 a.m. Evening Service 7 p.m.

A successful Primary social was held at the home of Sister Sweeney on Saturday, 11th September.

Brother and Sister Moore enjoyed a two weeks visit to Maritzburg.

Elders Sorenson and Wilcox journeyed to Maritzburg to meet President Le Grand P. Backman and Elder James G. Shumway and to attend conference 23rd September.

A very successful District Conference was held on the 26th of September. President Backman and Elder Shumway were in attendance as well as the Elders from Maritzburg. Elder Meservy and President Backman gave very inspirational sermons. To Mr. Metcalf, who sang two vocal solos, we say thanks.

7th October, two more were baptized into the fold. Mrs. Dorothy Taylor was baptized by Elder W. A. Sorenson and confirmed by Elder D. A. Wilcox. Clyde Vincent Rose was baptized by Elder Dale A. Wilcox and confirmed by Elder W. A. Sorenson. We pray the blessings of the Lord to attend them.

Brother and Sister O. L. Alldredge and Brother and Sister I. C. Louw, from Johannesburg were recent visitors.

To those members and friends who are ill we wish them a speedy recovery.

PIETERMARITZBURG.

Elders Joseph R. Meservy, Grant B. Hodgson.

Meetings held at Good Templars' Hall, Longmarket Street. Sunday Evening Service 7 p.m.

Notice! Important announcement! The Pietermaritzburg Branch has completed the most successful month in its history so far as baptisms are concerned. On Sunday, 19th September, at a beautiful place along the Umgeni River, four adult converts to the Church underwent the sacred ordinance of baptism. Florrie Wells Dinkleman and Elsie Lillian Nielsen were baptized by Elder J. R. Meservy and confirmed by Elder Grant B. Hodgson; also Blanche Ross McLaren and Sidney Herman Dinkleman were baptized by Elder Grant B. Hodgson and confirmed by Elder Joseph R. Meservy. With joy we welcome these good people into the Church.

A large crowd filled Good Templars Hall at the Branch Conference, 23rd September. Inspiring sermons were delivered by President Le Grand P. Backman and Elder James G. Shumway.

During the past month the principles of the Gospel have been taught in Saturday evening classes conducted for children.

TRANSVAAL DISTRICT.

Elder Ray F. Marsh, District President.
395 Commissioner Street, Fairview.
Phone: 24—3669.

RAMAH BRANCH.

Elders Frank W. Duncan and John F. Reynolds.

Meetings held at above address. Sundays at 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; Mutual, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.; Priesthood and Relief Society, Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Primary on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

Brother and Sister O. Layton Alldredge spent several days in Durban on business.

Phyllis Orton underwent a successful throat operation. Our prayers continue to go out in her behalf.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Sherwill Lawrence and two sisters of Mrs. Lawrence left 3rd October for a month's holiday on the south coast.

Daniel Cherrett, from the Cape, gave us a surprise visit, 8th October. He is at Roberts Heights training camp for a month.

And—another enjoyable Relief Society Dance, Friday night, 8th October, with M. J. Orton at the piano.

Brother and Sister R. B. Jakins and their son are holidaying in the Cape.

More honours go to the M.I.A. officers. This time, for the splendid supper and evening's entertainment they gave to the public on Friday night, 15th October. The supper was served hot from the Ramah kitchen. Since Ramah has been modernized, she has complete facilities for banquet catering. The whole evening was cleverly transformed into a "Happy Night at the Circus," and with tents, merry-go-rounds and side-shows everyone banquetted in carnival style.

Sunday afternoon, 17th October, Wilhelmina Christina Louw was baptized by Elder Gene L. Stoman and confirmed by Elder Burns Love Dunford; Brian Letha n Muir was blessed by Elder Ray F. Marsh, then he and Douglas Gordon Muir were baptized by Norman G. Muir and confirmed by L. G. Muir. Our best wishes and blessings go with them.

Climaxing an instructive and interesting Banner Month Programme, teaching some of the "Most Distinguishing Features of Mormonism," a District Relief Society Conference will be held Sunday night, 31st October. The attendance and enthusiasm that have been shown are inspiring.

LIAHONA BRANCH.

Elders Dean A. Ellsworth and Gene L. Stoman.

Sunday School at 10.30 a.m., 20 Petunia Street, Rosettenville; Sunday evening meetings at 6 p.m., Masonic Hall, Main Street, Kenilworth.

Congratulations, Brother and Sister Kenneth Sutherland. On 19th September a baby boy was born.

An enjoyable Christmas Tree Fund Social was held 29th September, in the Masonic Hall.

The boys of the Liahona Softball Club are getting ready for a peppy season.

SPRINGS BRANCH.

Sunday meetings at 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m., "Castle Mansions," Third Street.

Reaford Futter and Gert van Molen-dorff drove to the Cape to attend the funeral services of Brother van Molen-dorff's brother.

Brother and Sister I. C. Louw are holidaying for three weeks in Durban.

Sister Phyllis Armstrong and her husband, Ernest, are in line for congratulations. That baby will be a fine man when he grows up.

All eyes are centered on the big Dance which the Branch is sponsoring in the Supper Room of the Town Hall the night of 5th November.

WATERVAL BRANCH.

Sunday meetings at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 153, Kemp Avenue, Waterval Estate.

Sister A. C. Brummer, and the children of Brother and Sister S. Brummer have been quite ill. However, they are much improved now.

PRETORIA BRANCH.**Elders Harold Dean Jensen and Burns Love Dunford.**

Sunday meeting at 7.30 p.m., Poynton's Building, 173, Church Street, East.

Elder Jensen spent a lovely evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser. On 18th September, accompanied by their son, they left for Durban to spend their holiday.

Sister Dieprink and Brother Nicholas Gouws have been ill. We sincerely hope they will enjoy a speedy recovery.

Brother Melvy Jakins has been in Cape Town on his holiday.

We are pleased to welcome Elder Burns Love Dunford to Pretoria. His genial nature and devotion for the work will aid us materially.

RAMAH BAZAAR AND DANCE
3rd November.

RAMAH CONCERT

"Peg O' My Heart"

17th, 18th and 19th November

Lovely Christmas Cantata Night Session
of

**TRANSVAAL DISTRICT
CONFERENCE**

12th December

(Concluded from page 149.)

From whence came the first settlers to these continents? How can we account for the Aborigines which Columbus and Cortez found when discoveries show the high development of civilization of their progenitors? A syndicate article by Rene Bache, which appeared in the large newspapers of America in 1921, gives an answer to the first question. Entitled "Why Science Now Believes that the Mysterious Mayas of Yucatan Came from Ancient Babylon After the Confusion of Tongues," Mr. Bache's article says in part:—

The towers and pyramids built by the Mayas, the civilized inhabitants of Mexico, who flourished before the Aztecs, are the greatest wonders of Antiquity in America.

An interesting theory, now strongly held by scientists and scholars of the Smithsonian Institution is that the Mayas are descended from the ancient people of Babylon, who were dispersed over the face of the earth after the capture of that famous city of Cyrus . . . This view is confirmed in a great degree by the extraordinary resemblance between the ruined towers and pyramids of Babylonia and those built by the Mayas in Yucatan. In addition to this there is other evidence that the Mayas came from somewhere in Asia.

For more than a hundred years, while scientists have been trying to unravel the mystery of these forgotten Empires, a problem which they have by no means solved, the Latter-day Saints have found a special fascination in the history of these peoples. They recognize that in ages past God had a hand in the rise and fall of those great nations. They possess a record of the religious and political history of those ancient races, a record written by the hand of many of the actual participants, a record preserved by the power of God. In this latter day the boy Prophet Joseph Smith was directed to the place where that hidden record had been preserved for 14 centuries, and by the Power of God he translated the Reformed Egyptian characters on the ancient plates into the English language. This most interesting book of 522 pages—the Book of Mormon—tells of three successive migrations to the western world. The Jaredites, who took part in the first migration, came from Babylon at the time of the confusion of tongues. The other two groups came from Jerusalem about 600 B.C. As the Book of Mormon is the record of another branch of the house of Israel—as it is the Stick of Ephraim—it has a message vital to all the world.

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